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Letter dated 15 September 2009 from the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a press statement (No. PSC/PR/CCII) issued by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its 202nd meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 10 September 2009, on recent developments in the situation in Madagascar (see annex).

It would therefore be appreciated if the text of the above-mentioned document could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Lila Hanitra **Ratsifandrihamanana**
Ambassador
Permanent observer to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 15 September 2009 from the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Press statement issued by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its 202nd meeting

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 202nd meeting held on 10 September 2009, received a briefing from the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the Commission for Madagascar, Mr. Ablassé Ouedraogo, on recent developments in the situation in Madagascar.

The Council expressed its deep concern at the sudden rise of tension in Madagascar following the unilateral decision made by the de facto authorities to establish what was termed a Government of National Unity without the participation of other political movements, in violation of to the Charter of the Transition and subsequent Agreements, particularly the Charter of Values, signed in Maputo on 9 August 2009.

The Council welcomed the decision of the SADC Summit, held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, from 6 to 8 September 2009, on Madagascar.

The Council stressed that the Charter of the Transition and the Agreements signed in Maputo on 9 August 2009, remain the consensual framework for ending the crisis peacefully and called on the Malagasy parties to continue inclusive dialogue for a consensual distribution of posts of responsibility within the transitional institutions in accordance with the Charter of the Transition.

The Council condemned the decisions taken unilaterally by Mr. Rajoelina and called him to resume dialogue with other political movements for inclusive and peaceful implementation of the Charter and the Transition Agreements signed in Maputo and urged the protagonists to return to constitutional order within the period not exceeding fifteen (15) months, as envisaged in the said Charter, through the holding of just, free, transparent and credible elections.

The Council commended the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the Commission, Ablassé Ouedraogo, for all the efforts deployed in collaboration with other Special Envoys of the International Organization of la Francophonie, Mr. Edem Kodjo: the UN, Mr. Tiébilé Drame, the SADC and Head of the SADC Mediation, former President of the Republic of Mozambique, Mr. Joaquim Chissano, in seeking a peaceful, consensual and inclusive solution to the crisis in Madagascar.

The Council encouraged the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the Commission to continue his efforts with the Joint International Mediation Team and to support the Malagasy people in their efforts to exit from the crisis and to ensure compliance and monitoring of the implementation of the Charter of the Transition.

The Council expressed its gratitude to the countries and international organizations of the International Contact Group on Madagascar for their efforts in monitoring the situation in Madagascar.

The Council decided to meet later to assess the evolution of the situation in Madagascar with a view to taking appropriate measures, including targeted

sanctions against the de facto authorities and their supporters within the framework of the Lomé Declaration of 2000, Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council and other pertinent AU instruments.